

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-08 EPA-04 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02
INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02
OES-07 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7821
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA - PLENARY SESSION, MARCH 30

1. THE CONFERENCE MET IN A CLOSED FORMAL SESSION AND REVIEWED THE POSITIONS OF THE REGIONAL GROUPS ON THE CONTINUATION OF AMERASINGHE AS PRESIDENT. THE ARAB, ASIAN, AFRICAN, WEO, AND EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUPS REITERATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR AMERASINGHE WITH THE LATTER TWO AGAIN STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSENSUS IN ARRIVING AT A FINAL DECISION ON THIS QUESTION. THE LATIN AMERICANS AGAIN INSISTED THAT THE PRESIDENT MUST BE A MEMBER OF A NATIONAL DELEGATION.

2. ICELAND, ON A POINT OF ORDER, ASKED THE CHAIR FOR A RULING ON WHETHER THERE WAS ANYTHING IN THE RULES OF PROCEDURE THAT PREVENTED AMERASINGHE FROM CONTINUING. THERE WERE SEVERAL STRONG INTERVENTIONS BY PERU, MEXICO, INDIA, SINGAPORE, AND THE SOVIET UNION ON THE POINT OF ORDER WITH
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THE LATIN AMERICANS OBJECTING AND THE ASIANS SEEKING SOME FACE-SAVING RESOLUTIONS OF THE DIFFERENCES. THE SOVIETS FELT THE REQUEST IGNORED THE NEED TO REACH A CONFERENCE CONSENSUS. THE CHAIRMAN ADJOURNED THE MEETING WITHOUT RULING ON ICELAND'S POINT OF ORDER AND HAS ASKED THAT REGIONAL GROUPS AGAIN TRY TO REACH A CONSENSUS ON THIS VITAL QUESTION.

3. THE REGIONAL GROUPS ARE TO MEET ON FRIDAY MORNING WITH ANOTHER PLENARY SCHEDULED FOR THREE O'CLOCK. THE ACTING PRESIDENT SAID HE WILL MAKE A FINAL EFFORT TO GET THE CONFERENCE TO REACH AGREEMENT AT THE AFTERNOON MEETING AND HE HOPES TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE BY THE END OF THE DAY.
RICHARDSON

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